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Letter dated 28 March 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to your report on the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) (S/2006/24), in which you describe the challenges facing Timor-Leste, especially the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007, which are of major importance, and welcome the Security Council's suggestions, I have the honour to convey the views of the members of the Council regarding ways and means of assisting Timor-Leste to meet the challenges ahead.

The members of the Council took into consideration the letters addressed to you from Mari Alkatiri, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, dated 20 January 2006 (S/2006/39) and José Ramos-Horta, Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste, dated 2 March 2006 (S/2006/157, annex, enclosure).

The members of the Security Council, acknowledging the encouraging pace of the handover of the functions of UNOTIL, request you to present by mid-April options for post-UNOTIL assistance to Timor-Leste by the United Nations, including coordination with other international actors, taking into account that peace and democracy in Timor-Leste need to be further consolidated, with due consideration paid to the following elements:

(a) The best modality for assisting Timor-Leste in all aspects concerning the organization of the 2007 elections;

(b) The maximum use of and efficient coordination with existing and forthcoming bilateral and multilateral assistance to Timor-Leste in post-conflict peacebuilding and capacity-building, including in the field of human rights and the rule of law;

(c) Respect for the sovereignty of Timor-Leste, particularly bearing in mind that the rules and processes governing the national elections should be part of a broad national consensus;

(d) The report of the United Nations needs assessment mission on the issues and challenges of the people and Government of Timor-Leste as they prepare for the first post-independence national elections in 2007.

(*Signed*) César **Mayoral**
President of the Security Council

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